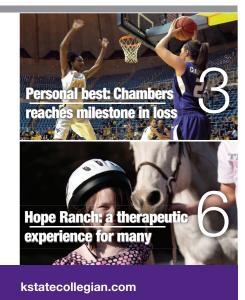
# thecollegian INDEPENDENT VOICE FOR KANSAS STATE UNIVERSI



VOL.118 NO. 102





Politically correct Liberalism a 'badge of honor' says one Fourum entry

Future of football John Zetmeir takes a look at the upcoming football season

Bigfoot: myth or truth? One researcher says that the legend isn't as far-fetched as it seems

## 'Distinguished' award presented to alum

Paige Druffel

contributing writer

Justine Sterling, a 2007 K-State graduate, was honored on Tuesday as one of the two inaugural Distinguished Young Alumni award recipients by the K-State Alumni Association Student Alumni Board.

Sterling spoke to audience members in Forum Hall about serving as the director of alumni relations at the George W. Bush Presidential Center in Dallas, where she assisted in planning events at the White House for the president of Ghana and Pope Benedict XVI and accompanied the president and first lady on trips to Africa, in addition to per-

forming other duties.

"I think the biggest thing I am proud of is that I am from Kansas and went to Kansas State University," Sterling said.

Sterling shared with students how each step has been like a different year in college. She started out as a White House intern in intergovernmental affairs for the Bush administration. Sterling was then hired to work as a staff assistant for first lady Laura Bush and moved to Dallas to be a part of the president's private office team after his second term ended.

As an intern, Sterling said she remembers feeling like a fresh-

"You do what you are told, show up early, follow people around and ask silly questions," she said.

Sterling said in her second year as an intern she got into the swing of things, and her third, or junior year, was when she learned the most valuable les-

"Let me lay it all out there, it is going to be hard. Sometimes you try really hard and you are totally, totally going to have a bad day," she said after recalling an incident where nothing seemed to go right. "You can't dwell on it, you have to move on."

Her "senior" year has been the best, as it should be, she said. Sterling said she has finally begun to find a balance between

work and her personal life.

She closed her speech by telling audience members, "You really can do anything. If you work really, really hard, it doesn't matter where you are from."

Drew Unruh, freshman in open option, said the message he took away from the presentation was to never let anything get vou down.

ALUM | pg. 8



**Justine Sterling**, one of two winners of the K-State Alumni Association's inaugural Distinguished Young Alumni award, describes how her career working for former President George W. Bush was similar to her college career at K-State, as she experienced a "freshman," "sophomore," "junior" and "senior" phase during her keynote address Tuesday evening in Forum Hall at the K-State Student Union.

Evert Nelson Collegian Julie Sterling, Manhattan resident, smiles as she looks back at the rest of the Sterling family during her daughter's keynote speech Tuesday in Forum Hall. Sterling's daughter Justine was recognized by the K-State Alumni Association Student Alumni Board as a 2013 Distinguished Young Alumni.



## **Mock Trial Team heads** to nationals

Sarah Burns contributing writer

After 20 hours of training a week, 25 individuals, three coaches and a 150page document later, the K-State Mock Trial Team is on their way to nationals.

"It is a dream come true," said Bondy Kaye, club president and senior in psychology. "Everyone has worked tirelessly throughout the past five years to reach this point. This is awesome."

The Mock Trial Team consists of a varsity team, junior varsity team and two sub teams. Team members' majors range from communications to political science and history, with most in the pre-law program.

Five years ago in LeAnn Brazeal's,

associate professor of communication studies, trial advocacy class, a small independent group of students decided

MOCK | pg. 7

## **Defendants** in arson case appear in court

Mike Stanton

Appearing virtually in Riley County Court via a video conference, Patrick Scahill, 20, and Virginia Griese, 19, began court proceedings Tuesday for their alleged involvement in a fatal apartment fire earlier this month.

Scahill and Griese are both charged with first-degree murder and aggravated arson in connection with the Feb. 7 fire at the Lee Crest apartment building, located at 820 Sunset Ave., which left 34-year-old Vasanta Pallem dead of smoke inhalation. Griese is currently enrolled at K-State as a biology major. Scahill is a former student in the open option program.

Griese's preliminary hearing was scheduled for March 22 at 1 p.m. in Magistrate Courtroom One. The prosecutor, Riley County Attorney Barry Wilkerson, requested that four hours be scheduled for the hearing.

Scahill requested a 30-day continuance due to a change in legal representation, but Magistrate Judge William Malcolm, in an effort to keep the proceedings moving, scheduled a status hearing for March 12. Scahill's preliminary hearing will be scheduled at that time.

Both Scahill and Griese are being held in Riley County Jail on bonds of \$1,000,000.

## K-State to switch to fast, free 'eTranscripts' beginning April 1

Dani Golway

contributing writer

K-State students can now request transcripts free of charge, and will have their documents faster than ever, according to a university official. Effective April 1, the transcript-ordering window in Anderson Hall will close and be replaced with a cutting-edge transcript delivery system known as eTranscripts.
"The eTranscript is the

most secure and fastest delivery option for an official transcript," said Susan Cooper, associate registrar.

This new system gives students access to their transcripts in a matter of minutes, instead of the traditional method that took up to a full week.

eTranscripts emailed to students in the form of a secure PDF. Kylie Sturgis, freshman in political science, said she is thrilled with the new time-saving, budget-friendly method.

'That's the best part," Sturgis said. "It's free, and you don't have to wait."

Even beyond the financial benefit of the switch, the quick response allows students to share the information with employers in interviews, or on applications much faster than before. This timely response will give students an opportunity to apply for jobs or scholarships on a much shorter notice, and still provide the of-

ficial information required. The electronic ordering and delivery of an eTranscript, via secure PDF, can be beneficial to students for their many academic pursuits, career day interviews, scholarship applications, employment applications and communication with parents," Cooper said.

However, students are still advised to confirm with specific employers or schools that an electronic form is valid before submitting an application. Some organizations and applications require a traditional paper copy or a sealed envelope, which will still be available at K-State.

"The traditional paper copy transcript is, and will continue to be, an ordering option for students," Cooper said

While some students are happy with the new system, others are wary of transporting such important documents through email, and will likely stick to the paper copy tran-

Even though the PDF carries the same weight as a traditional copy, some students would rather play it safe. Jake Schmidt, senior in biology, finds the idea interesting, but he is not as enthused as some

"Anything that official online is a little sketch," said Schmidt.
"I prefer paper when stuff is that official.

The new service is not just for current students, either. Graduates and former students as far back as 1983 can access paper copies or eTranscripts through the registrar's

Editor's Note: This article was completed as an assignment for a class in the A.Q. Miller School of Journalism and Mass Communications.

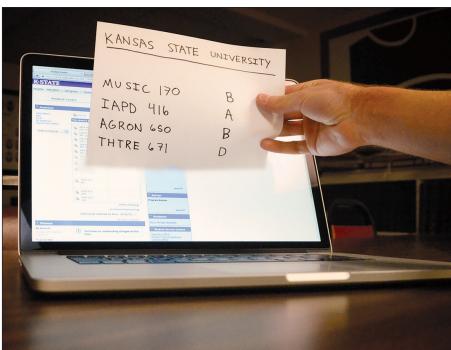


photo illustration by Parker Robb

K-State will switch to an online eTranscript system at the beginning of April, allowing students to access transcripts for free as secure PDFs through email. Paper copies will still be available to students as some employers and universities require hard copies rather than digital transcripts.



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Yesterday's answer 2-27

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#### THE FOURUM

#### 785-260-0207

Like your favorite posts at the four um.kstatecollegian.com

The Fourum is a quirky view of campus life in voices from the K-State community. Positive and entire life. humorous comments are selected for publication by the Collegian marketing

Abolish the state!

**Som**, how convenient that you get to arbitrate who has free speech and who doesn't. Free speech is much more important than your annoyance/offense.

What do I do over snow days? Watch Star Wars trilogies and drink, of

Tom Brady just signed a 3-yr, \$27 million deal. More than I'll make my

**Congrats** to the seniors on the men's basketball team. Winningest senior class in K-State history.

**How** about we stop blaming the other party and start working toward a better living for everyone.

If I was a referee I would kick Jeff Withey out of the game at the beginning for looking like a

**Dear** Johnson County drivers: PLEASE learn how to drive! Love, evervone else from Kansas

People say liberal like it's an insult. Liberals got women and blacks the right to vote. Liberals created Social Security and lifted millions of the elderly out of poverty. Liberals ended segregation. Liberals passed the Civil Rights Act, the Voting Rights Act, Liberals created Medicare. Liberals passed the Clean Air Act and the Clean Water Act. You call me liberal like it's an insult, but I will wear that word as a badge of honor.

Worst. Blizzard. Ever. :-(

My best judgement says, "Roll over and go back to sleep in your warm

I was really excited when I saw that For The Win was being published on Tuesdays now. Then I realized it was another Collegian error. :(

**Stop** wearing sweats to class; dress like you are here to accomplish something.

Editor's note: To submit your Fourum contribution. call or text 785-260-0207 or email thefourum@ kstatecollegian.com. Your email address or phone number is logged but not published.

#### Logan's Run By Aaron Logan







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#### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Collegian welcomes your letters. We reserve the right to edit submitted letters for clarity, accuracy, space and relevance. A letter intended for publication should be no longer than 350 words and must refer to an article that appeared in the Collegian within the last 10 issues. It must include the author's first and last name, year in school and major. If you are a graduate of K-State, the letter should include your year(s) of graduation and must include the city and state where you live. For a letter to be considered, it must include a phone number where you can be contacted. The number will not be published. Letters can be sent to letters@kstatecollegian.com.

Letters may be rejected if they contain abusive content, lack timeliness, contain vulgarity, profanity or falsehood, promote personal and commercial announcements, repeat comments of letters printed in other issues or contain attachments.

The Collegian does not publish open letters, third-party letters or letters that have been sent to other publications or people.

#### CORRECTIONS

There was an error in the Feb. 26 issue.

The comic on page 2 was "Logan's Run" by Aaron Logan. The Collegian regrets the error.

If you see something that should be corrected or clarified, call managing editor Darrington Clark at 785-532-6556 or email news@ kstatecollegian.com.

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## THE BLOTTER ARREST REPORTS

Monday, Feb. 25

Eric James Lubrano Jr., of the 1900 block of Strong Avenue, was booked for failure to appear. Bond was set at \$1,000.

Alvin Dante Jones, of the 1900 block of Lincoln Drive, was booked for two counts of probation violation. Bond was set at

James Robert Lewis, of Rex Lane, was booked for four counts of failure to appear. Bond was set

Michael Steven Allen, of Kansas City, Kan., was booked for criminal trespassing. Bond was

Keith Alan Buelow, of the 2000 block of Judson Street, was booked for probation violation. Bond was set at \$322.

Tuesday, Feb. 26

Brandon Thomas Lambert, of Abilene, was booked for stalking. Bond was set at \$2,000.

Angela June Werry, of Ogden, was booked for domestic battery. Bond was set at \$1,000.

Compiled by Katie Goerl



537-7151

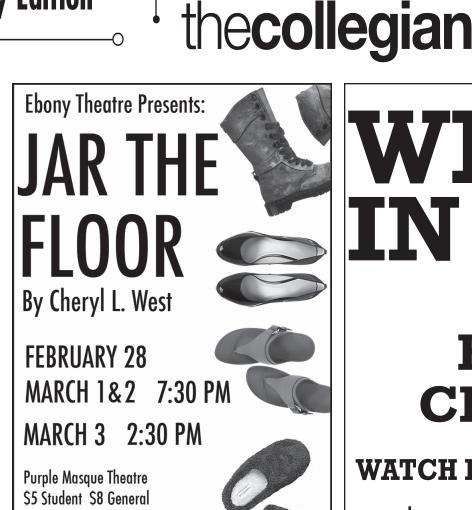
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## Twominute drill

Mike Stanton

assistant news editor

#### NCAA BASKETBALL

The Big 12 Conference released a statement on Tuesday acknowledging "officiating errors" late in No. 6 Kansas win over Iowa State in Ames Monday night, according to an ESPN.com article.

One of the most widely-contested officiating decisions came with five seconds remaining and Iowa State clinging to a 2-point lead. KU point guard Elijah Johnson drove to the lane and collided with Cyclones' Georges Niang, who appeared to have his feet set.

No call was made on the play, but in the ensuing scramble for the loose ball, Niang was whistled for a foul that sent Johnson to the free-throw line. Johnson was able to tie the score and sent the game into overtime.

KU dominated the extra period en route to a 108-96 victory, Bill Self's 500th win as a head coach.

The conference officials said that, "appropriate measures would be taken to adjust the number of future assignments" for the officials involved.

#### **OLYMPICS**

Duke head coach Mike Krzyzewski said on Tuesday that he will not return to coach USA Basketball after the Blue Devils' season, according to an

"Coach K" said Team USA will likely name his successor this summer, in preparation for 2014's world championships in

In his seven years at the helm, Team USA won two Olympic gold medals, and won the 2010 world championship without a single Olympian on the roster.

According to a Tuesday ESPN article, the Pittsburgh Penguins star and reigning MVP Evgeni Malkin has been placed on injured reserve with a concussion suffered Friday against the Florida Panthers.

Penguins head coach Dan Bylsma said the team would follow NHL protocol when evaluating Malkin's concussion before giving a timetable for his return.

The injury comes a season after Penguins' captain Sidney Crosby spent a majority of last year on the IR with concussion-related symptoms. The Penguins have the second best record in the Eastern Conference at 13-6.

Check

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

## Chambers scores 36 points in loss to WVU



Nicolas Wahl

It was a record-setting night for Brittany Chambers, as the K-State guard poured in a career-high 36 points. It was not enough, though, as her Wildcats (13-15, 4-12 Big 12 Conference) fell to the Mountaineers (17-10, 9-7 Big 12) 66-57 on Tuesday night.

K-State, behind 20 first-half points from Chambers, surged in the opening period. They led by as many as 10 and took a -23 lead into halftime.

Chambers was everywhere for the Wildcats during the first half. She was 8-of-12 from the field, and 4-of-6 from 3-point range. She grabbed five re-bounds, got a steal and assisted on two of the four first-half buckets she didn't score her-

A sluggish K-State start allowed West Virginia to ride an 11-3 run to tie the game five minutes into the second half, but K-State responded with back-to-back threes by Chantay Caron and Mariah White to give the Wildcats a 40-34 cushion. Less than a minute later, Chambers knocked in her fifth 3-pointer of the evening, prompting West Virginia head coach Mike Carey to call a quick timeout.

His team responded. An Ayana Dunning layup capped a 14-4 WVU run that turned a 5-point deficit into a 54-47 lead with 6:06 remaining in the ballgame.

Chambers' sixth and final 3-pointer of the night pulled K-State to within 4 points at 58-54, but the Wildcats wouldn't get any closer, losing their fourth straight Big 12 Conference game.

Chambers' 36 points were the most ever by a Wildcat against a conference opponent, and she was joined in double-figures by Caron who

Christal Caldwell and Dunning led the way for West Virginia with 15 points a piece. Dunning also grabbed seven rebounds to help the West Virginia cause.

K-State returns home on Saturday to play host to Texas Tech. It is the final home game of the season for the Wildcats, as seniors Chambers and White will suit up one last time in front of the Bramlage Coliseum crowd. Tipoff for the game is set for 12:30 p.m.

## 5 questions K-State fans might have about next football season



John Zetmeir

The Wildcats are coming off one of their best football seasons in school history, but have to replace numerous players that have moved on from their college days. Here is a look at the pressing questions as K-State prepares for the 2013 season.

#### 5. Who will become K-State's next "BIG" target?

The Wildcats are returning a very solid receiving core, but that core is built of speedy receivers who are all under 6-feet tall. When the Wildcats needed a big catch last season, senior receiver Chris Harper and senior tight end Travis Tannahill were often the targets. Who will be the next big

body for the Wildcats? On the outside, all signs point to junior Torell Miller. Despite only accumulating four

catches for 40 yards and one touchdown, Miller saw plenty of action in 2012 and has a similar body type to Harper. Filling in for Tannahill will likely be sophomore tight end Zach Trujillo, who backed up Tannahilĺ in 2012.

#### 4. How will the new coaches get situated?

Since the end of the Fiesta Bowl, two members of the coaching staff, receivers coach Michael Smith and defensive ends coach Joe Bob Clements, have departed for other programs. Replacing Smith was another former Wildcat, Andre Coleman. He left his position at Youngstown State to rejoin his alma matter as the new receivers coach. Coleman was an All-American in 1993 for the Wildcats.

Defensive graduate assistant Blake Seiler was promoted to replace Clements. Seiler played for the Wildcats from 2004-06, and was an assistant to Clements for two seasons. Clements and Smith were thought of as the Wildcats' best recruiters, so Coleman and Seiler will most likely be responsible for picking up where those two left off.

#### 3. How motivated are the 2012 Big 12 Champions?

With returning captains such as sophomore BJ Finney and junior Ty Zimmerman, K-State has plenty of battle-tested leaders. This question will not truly be



Emily DeShazer | Collegian

Redshirt freshman **Daniel Sams** fakes a handoff to junior running back **Robert Rose** late in the fourth quarter in the win over the University of North Texas on September 15, 2012, in Bill Snyder Family Stadium. Sams is one of the top candidates for starting quarterback in the 2013 season.

answered until the season starts, but the spring will give fans a good look at emerging

#### 2. How is the defense shaping up?

In 2012, the Wildcats had one of the best defenses in the country. Yet, other than safety Ty Zimmerman, K-State will have plenty of starting roles to fill on the defensive side of the ball. Big names such as Arthur Brown, Meshak Williams and Nigel Malone are going to be

replaced.

The Wildcats tackled the defensive side of the ball in the most recent recruiting class, bringing in highly-touted junior college transfers such as Devon Nash and Nate Willis, as well as fourstar high school recruits Nick

Ramirez and Tanner Wood. Junior linebacker Tre Walker will put on pads for the first time since injuring himself against Texas Tech in K-State's eighth game of the season. Look for names like Randall Evans, Ryan Mueller

and Dante Barnett to stand out in the spring. These were all players who had key roles on the 2012 team.

#### 1. Where does the quarterback battle stand?

This has not been a question for the Wildcats for the last two seasons, but it is now time to find a replacement for 2012 Heisman Trophy finalist Collin Klein. In both 2011 and 2012, Klein was the Wildcats' top performer and biggest leader. With Klein's departure, the Wildcats will now have to find a new general. The leading candidates are redshirt freshman Daniel Sams and reigning junior college national player of the year Jake Waters.

With the entire offensive line returning, as well as starting running back John Hubert and two of the three leading receivers from last season, whoever wins the job will have a wonderful supporting cast.

Sams marveled fans as Klein's backup last season, as he ran for almost 250 yards and three scores, while Waters was at Iowa Western leading the Reivers to their first national title. Both players bring a special skill set to the field, and the spring game will be the perfect situation for fans to get their first look at the future signal caller.

John Zetmeir is a sophomore in journalism and mass communications. Please send comments to sports@kstatecollegian.com.

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Patrick Lee Chair, Manhattan Area Chamber Small Business Council President, N Zone Sportswear

Last week I wrote about the impact of sales tax dollars to the local economy and how the state of Kansas stands to lose \$240,000,000 in uncollected sales tax due to the fact that most online retailers don't collect and pay sales tax.

While this clearly is a problem for the local government agencies that rely on support of sales tax dollars, it doesn't scratch the surface of the internet's negative impact on local businesses. See, the taxes collected don't benefit the local guy's bottom line—we simply collect the tax and send it on down the line for distribution. We don't take a scrape off of the tax....there isn't a service charge for collecting it for the government. Just a hearty 'thanks' and monster penalties if you happen to be late in forwarding the tax dollars you collected for the state. It's almost like a Sopranos episode—they definitely want THEIR money YOU collected.

Part one was about fire trucks and potholes. Part two is about ball teams, boy scouts and the local things that make a home town, well, a home.

Local businesses support Manhattan. Box Stores don't. Chain stores don't either. Plain and simple. The money you spend in a locally owned store stays in Manhattan. The money you spend at Best Buy, Wal-Mart and McDonalds is gone forever.

The only real benefit that the Box Stores create that stays here is payroll. While payroll and the taxes associated with it do matter it's fair to say that we aren't operating in a vacuum. That is, for every job created at a chain restaurant there's another job that likely ended at the locally owned place so there really isn't a net gain to the economy in terms of payroll tax. One replaced the other for a net gain of zero.

So what difference does spending local make to Manhattan?

Well...the online merchants and Box Stores aren't involved in Manhattan or K-State. Amazon.com isn't a member of your high school booster club-but Varney's Bookstore is. Bestbuy.com doesn't sponsor a little league team-but your local electronics retailer probably does.

Vista Drive-In has been supporting KSU and local groups since 1963. That's fifty years of free ice cream, hamburgers and countless hours of time and energy to local boards, charities and benefits...yet we'll beg and plead for the next fast food chain to come to town and call it 'progress'.

While you're enjoying that Whopper, let me tell you another whopper: Local businesses donate more in time and money than Box Stores or their employees.

• 89.1 percent of small business owners believe it is important to donate money

• 100 percent of the businesses surveyed donate money to charities at least one time a year. More than half of those businesses have made a donation of \$1,000 or more in the last 12 months.

• 80.9 percent believe it is important to volunteer time and support to charities.

• 57.2 percent of small businesses dedicated 11 or more hours to charity work in the last 12 months.

At least 55.2 percent of local businesses donate resources once a year. Of those, 43.9 percent donate re-

(source: http://www.independentwestand.org/wp-content/uploads/IWS\_Community-Support-Index.pdf)







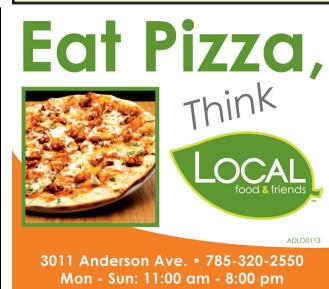
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What would Manhattan and K-State be without the local businesses? If the trend we've started with the internet isn't reversed, who will K-State call for the next round of facility upgrades? The local guys, many of whom are K-State grads, will be gone and replaced with McManagers with McJobs that have been placed in McManhattan. Do you think they'll pick up where we left off? I highly doubt it.

This week I'd like to assign homework to every one of you. For one week (or, golly, longer) make a point to seek out and find a local company that offers the same product you'd normally buy from a chain. Spend all your food and drink budget at restaurants that are specific to Manhattan only. Buy your groceries at Ray's (based in Seneca, KS) instead of Dillons (Kroger, Ohio). Audio Junction has consumer electronics just like

I'm willing to bet you won't spend more money. I'm also willing to bet the products will be equal, if not better.

Most importantly, I'm willing to bet the service and experience will be better. I'm willing to bet that the people you talk to in the local stores, shops and restaurants will appreciate you and your patronage far, far more as well. I'll guarantee it.

Next week we'll talk about connections. Internet connections, social connections and business connections

We asked you: "What local businesses have you seen shut down that you wish were still open?"

Shana Holsted: Ben Franklin Craft Store, Rod's Hallmark

Justin Litke: Gilio's...oh how I miss that place. Was the best Italian, the best setting and the best date night

Larry Jackson: Miss having a west-side location for Waters True Value hardware store. It was destroyed by a tornado a few years ago.

Laura Oxler: Emerald City downtown! I miss its chocolates!

Ian Stuart: Master Gamer and Streetside Records.

Stefan Yates: The Master Gamer, Rowdy Trouty's, Burrito King, CD Tradepost, GameGuy, Campus Theather,

Rebekah Almquist: Alco! The original hometown Walmart

Bekka Dillon: Taco Hut

Jared Meitler: Lemmy's Pizzeria

Hannah Rose: Streetside Records

Heather Wedel: East Kite's







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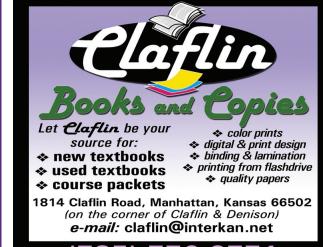
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## Hope Ranch provides equine therapy for community

Kaitlyn Dewell

In an age when many ailments and issues can be alleviated by taking a pill, it is easy to overlook the simpler, more natural solutions available. Equine therapy is one such remedy that provides a natural source of healing for people with a variety of challenges.

Hope Ranch Therapeutic Riding Center Inc. is a local nonprofit organization that provides therapy, education and recreational events for individuals with a wide variety of physical, emotional and developmental challenges.

The organization, which was founded seven years ago by the center's owner, Ken Scroggs, functions almost entirely through the generosity of private donors and dedicated volunteers. Scroggs said he made it a policy not to turn anyone away from the ranch.

We made a whole thing a long time ago when we first started this that anyone who wants to ride, gets to ride," Scroggs

Scroggs, who also owns Dry Creek, an equine care and riding center that shares facilities with Hope Ranch, said that he

given a pass," Scroggs said. "That can be good for them, but not good at the same time, because then they don't learn how to do things for themselves. So, we decided that we wanted them to do as much as they possibly could, even on the horse."

Individuals attending classes are given the opportunity to progress through a variety of stages. They begin with the basics of grooming the horse, then advance to riding with the assistance of three volunteers per rider. The final goal is for the student to have the ability to ride and maneuver the horse with little to no help from an instructor.

One of the class instructors at Hope Ranch, Garland Miller, got his start with the program as a volunteer, and is now employed through the organization. He said witnessing the positive effects that equine therapy has had on Hope Ranch students has been an incredibly rewarding experience.

Tve seen quite a positive impact on many of the riders I've taught," Miller said. "They're just significantly happier, and for several kids from the school district, this is the best thing that happens to them all week, and you can see it when they come in. They're just so excited that they can't

"I've seen quite a positive impact on many of the riders I've taught. They're just significantly happier, and for several kids from the school district, this is the best thing that happens to them all week, and you can see it when they come in. They're just so excited that they can't even calm down."

> **Garland Miller** class instructor at Hope Ranch

was first inspired to establish the organization after he began to realize the multifaceted benefits experienced by individuals practicing equine therapy.

Approximately 97 percent of the student riders at Hope Ranch are able to participate in therapy sessions due to schol-arships offered by the program, which Scroggs also attributes to the organization's moral principles.

"I mean, if you really think about it, a lot of the individuals who are dealing with family members with these issues are already burdened with everything going on," Scroggs said. "So we decided that we didn't want to be a part of that plan. Anyone who comes out and says they want to ride, they get to ride."

The therapy, while not clinical in nature, revolves around the idea of consistently creating an open, relaxing environment for clients to learn and understand the physical aspects of horseback riding. It's also meant to build and maintain relationships between the client, the volunteers and the animals at the facility.

Through the practice of riding and recreational activities, individuals with personal challenges from autism, multiple sclerosis and even post-traumatic stress disorder can experience improved comprehension and control of the body. These individuals also gain mental and emotional stimulation, such as increased speech capability and personal confidence.

The educational aspect of the program also plays a major role in the success of the rider as well, Scroggs said.

"A lot of times, kids with disabilities are

even calm down."

Miller's duties as an instructor include working with the students to come up with the best combination of horse, rider and volunteers for the student, which is often a trial-and-error process. Through this method, volunteers get to experience a variety of clients and success stories as

Kari Inch, junior in animal science, has spent the past year volunteering for Hope Ranch after participating in a similar program for wounded soldiers. Inch said that one of her favorite parts of donating her time to the organization is seeing how she personally impacts each individual through the therapy.

Inch felt a special connection to one student in particular. The student, who was at first very quiet and chose to communicate mostly through head nods and gestures, slowly began opening up to Inch. The more they communicated, the more Inch came to relate to her as an individual without special needs. Eventually, the student began communicating and speaking freely to her volunteers.

The most rewarding part was seeing her improvement socially, as well as in her riding ability," Inch said. "She was always very timid to push the horse to do more, and through a little encouragement, she rose up to each challenge I gave her."

By providing the encouraging atmosphere necessary to benefit individuals facing a variety of challenges in their lives, Hope Ranch continues to be a positive experience for both clients and volunteers associated with the program.



Emily DeShazer | Collegian

Mckinzey, Manhattan resident, leads Pluto the horse to the barn after an afternoon at Hope Ranch on Jan. 31. Four other youth spent the afternoon at the ranch and were assisted by five students from K-State.

## Bigfoot: Lurking in Kansas or just a figment of the imagination?

**Melanie Thomas** 

With the emergence of several TV shows, numerous movies and the quirky Jack Link's "Messin' with Sasquatch" commercial campaign, there's little chance that anyone is unaware of the legendary creature Big-

But is there a possibility that this famed creative could be roaming Kansas? Some researchers and fans believe so.

"There's 'squaches pretty much everywhere," said Carter Buschardt, investigator for Bigfoot Field Researchers Organization and a firm believer in the existence of Bigfoot.

BFRO was established in 1995, and, according to its website is, "a virtual community of scientists, journalists and specialists from diverse backgrounds" who investigate the phenomenon through field and

laboratory work. Buschardt, who lives in Kansas City, Mo., has been researching the Bigfoot concept for about five years and investigating for BFRO for about a year

and a half. While sightings cover the entire nation, some are closer

to home than others. There have been numerous Bigfoot sightings near Wichita, Salina, Manhattan and Pratt, Kan., and several places in Riley County, including near Tuttle Creek State Park.

Buschardt recounted a sighting reported in Pottawatomie County that was never made official due to the requests of a nearby Indian reservation.

"A lady ... saw one, and one of her best friends, a school bus driver up there, hit one with her school bus. It busted her window," Buschardt said.

On Jan. 29, crew members from Animal Planet's "Finding Bigfoot" television show visited Salina, following reports of Sasquatch sightings northeast of the city. Although the crew took some video, they reported not finding any evidence of Sasquatch activity.

There is a good reason that Sasquatch sightings are relatively rare, Buschardt said.

'Squatch are as intelligent as you or I are, just in a different way. They're good at maintaining their distance from

humans," Buschardt said. Buschardt believes that the Sasquatch species is intelligent because the creature is likely

an offshoot of the giant ape Gigantopithecus, an extinct genus that the fossil record suggests existed for millions of years but became extinct about 100,000 years ago. He said that it is possible both humans and Bigfoot developed from Gigantopithecus, but in different ways, giving them different types of intelli-

gence. 'We're smart at building rockets and computers. They're smart at surviving off the land and staying unseen," Buschardt

Buschardt is not the only person who is interested in the sightings of Bigfoot in Kansas. Crew members from "Finding Bigfoot" recently made a trip to Wichita to hold a meeting to discuss sightings in the area.

Buschardt, along with six witnesses he had spoken with, attended the meeting. The meeting invited anyone in the area to share about any encounters with Bigfoot and provide information about sightings in Kansas.

But not everyone is as certain as Buschardt about the existence of Bigfoot at all, never mind whether he lives in Kansas. Lauren Ritterbush, associate professor of archaeology, believes that Bigfoot is not a real creature, but that it "serves a mythological role in our soci-

Referencing "Bigfoot Exposed," a book by anthropologist David J. Daegling, Ritterbush explained that she, like Daegling, believes that Bigfoot's mythological purpose may be

as an "eco-messiah" of sorts. According to Daegling's book, as an eco-messiah, "Bigfoot signifies wilderness and the power of nature. The Sasquatch is the eco-messiah, for if we understand this monster we might overcome our ambivalent rela-

tionship with nature." "Bigfoot Exposed" claims that "this symbolic aspect of Bigfoot is rarely talked about among advocates," who, Buschardt confirmed, "are all pretty much outdoor people."

But while this theory could explain much of the reasoning behind the continued search for Bigfoot, it cannot say for certain whether Bigfoot does or does not exist as a real, physical creature. In "Bigfoot Exposed," Daegling wrote, "we only know for certain that the Sasquatch is meaningful."

Glenn Sipes, junior in industrial engineering, said that he "most certainly" believes that Bigfoot exists.

"There's no reason to believe that it doesn't exist. You can't disprove something that you haven't found," Sipes said.

Sipes said he doesn't look down on those who don't be-

lieve in Bigfoot. "There's no proof that it doesn't exist, and there's no proof that it does exist, so it's logical to believe either way," Sipes said.

There are K-State students on the other end of the spectrum, too. Steven Kelly, graduate student in English, holds a bachelor's degree in anthropology and now focuses his study on cultural studies in English literature.

Kelly said that while he doesn't believe Bigfoot exists as a real, physical creature, he does think Bigfoot plays an important social role as a myth.

"The evidence, to me, shows that Bigfoot does not actually exist, and that Bigfoot is in fact a myth and not real, but the fact that the myth isn't true doesn't mean it's not important," Kelly said. "Myths are critically important to gluing people together into group cohesion. They're big parts of identities."

Kelly said he thinks one

reason people are drawn to Bigfoot is the mystical nature of the creature.

"People don't always need a reason for believing in something," Kelly said.

Kelly also said that the commercialization of Bigfoot plays a

large part in its popularity. There's an industry around Bigfoot. The media is part of that industry, so they put out the shows to get people to watch TV, to watch the shows that advertisers and companies are

alive," Kelly said. Sipes said that it was a movie, "Harry and the Hendersons," that first made him believe in

paying for to keep the networks

'Harry and the Hendersons' is an encounter that's obviously faked, but could legitimately happen in my mindset," Sipes

While both sides can provide evidence to support their viewpoints, it is up to individuals to decide what they believe about the existence of Bigfoot. But one thing is for certain: Bigfoot will likely stick around for years to come, whether he lives on in the wilderness or as a myth that continues to circulate the

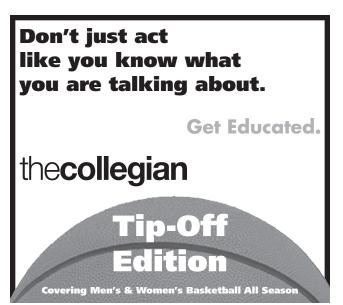


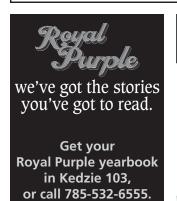
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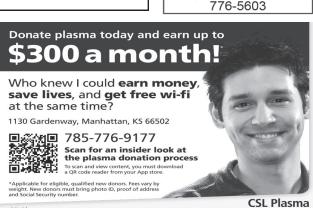
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## **MOCK** | First round March 15-17 in St. Louis

Continued from page 1

to take their law skills to the next level by forming a Mock Trial Team. When the team began winning tournaments, local attorneys became involved and a curriculum and a coaching staff were added.

The curriculum was written by Benjamin Long, the team's coach and an attorney for Schlagel Kinzer LLC. Other coaches include Britain Stites, attorney at law for the Junction City public defender's office, and Nikki Mar-

cotte legal secretary for Oleen Law Firm in Manhattan and former member of the team. All coaches are volunteers.

A mock trial is a student competition consisting of two teams of three attorneys and three witnesses competing to see who will win the entire case. Tournaments include three days of four trials, each trial lasting three to four hours each.

Two judges award points for each part of the trial, and the team with the most points wins. K-State's Mock Trial Team has faced schools such as the University of Kansas, United States Air Force Academy, University of Colorado, Loyola University of Chicago, Drake University and University of Notre Dame.

In August, a 150-page case was released for the team to use throughout the year. From August to February the team attended invitational tournaments.

Each region across the country has 30-35 teams competing with only the top seven advancing to nationals. K-State advanced with five and half wins.

"These kids are some of the hardest working I have ever met," Long said. "It is great to finally see their efforts and hard work paying off." The first round of nationals

will be hosted in St. Louis from March 15-17. The championship round is April 14-17 in Washing-

Editor's Note: This article was completed as an assignment for a class in the A.Q. Miller School of Journalism and Mass Communications.



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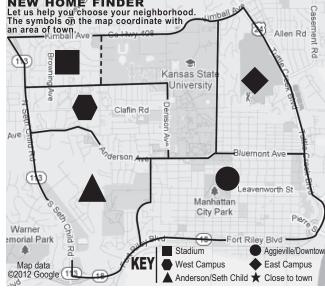
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THE COLLEGIAN cannot verify the financial WANTED. The City of potential of advertisements in the Employ-Westmoreland is accepting applications for Opportunities a pool manager for the ers are advised to ap-proach any such busi-Prior experience and Prior experience and tory. Applications may be obtained at City Hall, 202 Main Street West-

ness opportunity with current certification precaution ferred but not manda-The Collegian urges our readers to contact the Better Business Bureau, 501 SE Jeffermoreland, KS 66549, 785-457-3361, Topeka, during 66607-1190. 785-232regular business hours: 8- 12, 1- 5 M-F. Closing date for all applications is noon. March 7, 2013. HOWE LANDSCAPE Equal Opportunity Em-INC is currently seeking laborers for several of our divisions. This is for full-time and part-time help, with flexible sched-**Business Opportunities** 

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ules for students, preferably 4-hour blocks of THE COLLEGIAN cannot verify the financial potential of advertise ments in the Employment/ classifications. Readers are advised to approach any such business opportunity with reasonable caution. The Collegian urges our readers to contact the Better Business Bureau, 501 SE Jefferson, Topeka, 66607-1190.

## 0454. Pregnancy Testing Center

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Difficulty Level ★★★ 9/02									

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## ALUM | Award in its inaugural year; 2008 alum also honored with distinction

Continued from page 1

"As a freshman I have been told 'no' already by organizations, but I can't let that get me down," Unruh said.

While at K-State, Sterling served as a state and national Future Farmers of America officer, a College of Agriculture ambassador, and was a member of Blue Key Senior Honorary and Chi Omega sorority, in addition to being involved in several other activ-

Sterling spent her day at K-State meeting with some of those student groups and various classes on campus.

The Student Alumni Board's mission is to serve as the link between past, present and future students of K-State. The Distinguished Young Alumni award is used to further these

"We saw the need to connect current students to alumni,"

said Sam Kellerman, vice presijunior in nutritional sciences.

"As a freshman I have been told 'no' already by organizations, but I can't let that get me down."

> **Drew Unruh** freshman in open option

dent of student programing for Members of the Alumni Asthe Student Alumni Board and sociation were asked to submit applications for alumni under 30 who are excelling in their professions and contributing to their communities. Kellerman said they had more than 20 applicants. This is the first year for the award, and the board hopes to see the program continue to

Nick Piper, a 2008 K-State graduate and founder and CEO of Phoria Energy Solutions, a China-based company that promotes clean and efficient

energy use in developing economies, was the second award recipient. Due to unforeseen circumstances he was unable to be present this year, but plans to address students as part of the 2014 Young Alumni

Editor's Note: This article was completed as an assignment for a class in the A.Q. Miller School of Journalism and Mass Communications.

## Sequester is serious business; students should stay informed, aware



**Darrington Clark** 

As of Tuesday, in a speech he gave to workers at Newport News Shipbuilding in Virginia, President Barack Obama reaffirmed that he is not going to budge on his position regarding the sequester budget cuts. Not sure what the sequester budget cuts are? You're in good company.

According to a recent poll conducted and published by Pew Research Center and the Washington Post, one in four Americans are closely following the progress of Washington's most pressing debate. The poll was conducted on a sample group of 1,000 adults, and only 18 percent said they felt they had a good understanding of what would happen if the sequester were to take place.

So, in order to very slightly bump those numbers up, let's break down what the sequester is. The Congressional Research Service defines sequestration as a process of automatic, largely across-the-board spending reductions to meet or enforce certain budget policy goals. This year's sequester would force the nation to reduce \$85 million in spending by the end of the fiscal year. Medicare and the Department of Defense would be main targets of budget cuts. Oh, and it's set to take effect Friday.

Now we know what it is, but here's why it matters: If the sequester cuts do take effect, and the defense department does have its budget cut (to the tune of 8 percent, or \$46



photo and cutline courtesy of Wikimedia Commons

President Barack Obama signs the Budget Control Act of 2011 in the Oval Office on Aug. 2, 2011.

billion), that will directly hurt all of America's military bases. And we have one of those right next to Manhattan.

"A big percentage of our income for the Manhattan area comes from Fort Riley," said Eric Higgins, professor of finance and head of the finance department. "The sequester could have an impact on our local economy, specifically the civilians that work there to support the fort."

We, as a nation, are no strangers to scary terminology in regard to the country's finances. We've been given terms like "debt-ceiling," "national defi-cit" and "fiscal cliff," and haven't batted so much as an eyelash. This sequester, regardless of how much or little the word means to us, will have an effect

that we will feel.

Luckily, the government is working to come up with a plan to figure this out for us with as little pain as possible, right? Well, that's true, but the White House and Congress can't seem to agree on how to do it. I know, right? Contain your surprise.

The Republican National Committee published a press release that essentially said that the sequester isn't going to make up for the damage Obama has done to the national bank account. In effect, the press release breaks down Obama's spending in comparison to what the sequester will save, coming to the conclusion that the \$85 billion save is too small. Obama, on the other hand, is of the opinion that alternate spending plans and

tax increases for higher-income

citizens will do the trick. As long as there's this fighting though, neither side will get what they want, and they re beginning to see that.

Speaker of the House John Boehner ordered Congress to "get off their ass" and pass a bill dealing with the sequester, and Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell, a Republican, admitted that the Democrats and Republicans need to work together now to find a compromise, according to an article published Tuesday by NPR. Despite this glimmer of hope, we still don't see any movement, particularly because Obama isn't ready to see the defense department lose that much money. I agree with him.

In his speech in Virginia, Obama proclaimed, "The sequester will weaken America's economic recovery. It will weaken our military readiness. And it will weaken the basic services that the American people depend on every single day."

So yeah, let's fix this. The upcoming deadline for the sequester remains Friday, March 1, but that date is actually the result of an earlier delay. Ĭn 2011, Obama signed the Budget Control Act, essentially a promise between the White House and Congress to find a way to deal with the national debt in an efficient amount of time. The act mandated that

if no joint compromise was reached, then the sequester would force America to start

Obviously we haven't had a consensus, but if this threatening date has been avoided once, we'll probably be able to push it back again. And if not, let's talk about that Pew Post poll again. The majority of the nation is in the dark about this entire event happening. As citizens, we act as if governmental policies, especially those about our money, are dealt with above our heads and we have no control at all.

Congress can act so casually because they know that we won't rush them. The 18 percent of people who do understand what's going on isn't enough to force the government to move. This cut will affect us, it will affect Manhattan. So we, as well as all of the other cities that support the military, should probably tell Congress what we think they should do. If not, then on Friday, or maybe some other day in the future, the community will be dealt a crippling blow.

Darrington Clark is a sophomore in journalism and digital media. Please send comments to news@ kstatecollegian.com.

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